

SOMB Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Sex Offender Management Board was called to order on February 23, 2010, at the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Chicago, Illinois. Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order.

Present: Cara Smith, Alyssa Williams-Schafer, Carol Corgan, Tracie Newton, Verlin Mainz, Michael Bednarz, Jerry Isikoff, Alesia Crockett, Jessica O'Leary, Harry Reed, Sheryl Essenburg, Amy Campanelli, Steve Goytia, Dick Winkler, Mickie Owens, Jeff Brown; Mary Smith

Absent: Excused: Jack Cutrone

Unexcused: Shauna Boliker, Cheri Miller, Catherine Haberkorn, B. Kent Jones, Rena Van Tine

A. Welcome/Roll Call

B. Qualifications for Juvenile Providers

Cara Smith began the meeting by stating there is a concern among the providers that the juvenile standards were completed without community feedback. Currently there are 275 juvenile providers on the list of those 49 do not have a license. She discussed how the Standards and Guidelines Committee is considering holding two hearings, one in Springfield and one in Chicago to provide an opportunity for feedback.

Carol Corgan asked how this issue came to the Board? Was it through a formal complaint? Cara responded by stating through ATSA but no formal complaint was made to the Board. Jerry Isikoff stated the issue raised was regarding the standards (1) how were the providers informed and (2) were they given an opportunity to express their concerns. There was not a "grandfathering" process included in the juvenile standards. Also he added does the Board need to consider requiring licensure for the adults? Cara replied yes, we should strive for having higher standards for all providers. Another concern Jerry had was that some providers will lose their jobs if no provisions are made.

Carol asked where are we in terms of a grandfathering process? Cara responded by stating currently there is no mechanism in place. The Board would have to file an emergency rule that creates the process and a compliance period. She will also check with Steve Rotello regarding the emergency rule process. Jeff Brown stated a concern that some providers would not be able to obtain a license because of the degree(s) they have. He stressed that the licensure holds providers accountable. Jeff also discussed the possibility of requiring non-licensed providers to supplement their education by attending trainings. He discussed a training that is offered in Indiana that could be tailored to provide possible certifications. Jeff will provide further information on the program to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board discussed why it took such a long time to get the standards passed. Sheryl Essenburg stated initially the standards were done parallel to each other however the juvenile standards took a little longer. Verlin Mainz asked why we did not have public hearings on the juvenile standards. Cara stated that the Subcommittee did the juvenile standards, reviewed the adult standards, and incorporated feedback into the standards. Carol stated in the situation we face now with the juvenile standards, hearings would not be necessary since we can use the emergency rule as a solution.

The Board decided to look at the providers who are currently on the list, providing services to juveniles that do not have a license. The Board will look at (1) who are eligible to obtain licensure with a specific timeframes, and (2) a reasonable alternative for those who are not eligible for licensure because of their degree. Carol agreed to summarize the motion and Alesia Crockett would distribute it to the Board.

Carol Corgan made a motion to draft and file an Emergency Rule regarding provider qualifications for juvenile standards. Jerry Isikoff seconded the motion.

Summary of motion emailed to Board members after the meeting:

The SOMB, through its Standards Committee, will immediately draft and submit an emergency rule to:

- 1. permit approved juvenile treatment providers on this list on September 9, 2009, who do not hold a license, to continue serving juvenile offenders for a specified period of time;*
- 2. define a certification program that must be completed by non-licensed providers who are not eligible for licensure due to the degree they hold; and*
- 3. define the period of time within which each non-licensed provider must either secure a license if eligible or complete the certification program (described in 2) if ineligible for licensure in order to continue serving juveniles.*

C. Next Meeting: March 18, 2010 – Video Conferencing –IDOC: Chicago and Springfield

D. Adjournment